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U.S. PTO

Sughrue
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037-3213

T 202.293.7060
F 202.293.7860

www.sughrue.com

January 5, 2004

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

31355 U.S. PTO
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Re: Application of **James E. GALEN** entitled "**PLASMID MAINTENANCE SYSTEM FOR ANTIGEN DELIVERY**"
Assignee: **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE**
Our Ref: **A-8703**

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. **09/453,313** (Conf. No. 2449) filed **December 2, 1999**, of **James E. GALEN** entitled "**PLASMID MAINTENANCE SYSTEM FOR ANTIGEN DELIVERY**"; which is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Application No. **09/204,117**, filed **December 2, 1998**; and Provisional Application No. **60/158,738**, filed **October 12, 1999**.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims and Abstract, 28 sheets of drawings, and a copy of the executed Substitute Declaration and Power of Attorney (as filed in the prior application on December 1, 2003).

Also filed simultaneously herewith is a Preliminary Amendment, Information Disclosure Statement (along with Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) - listing references cited by Applicant and/or the Examiner during prosecution of the prior application) and Request to Use Computer-Readable Form of Sequence Listing (along with a copy of the Sequence Listing).

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1636.

Applicant claims benefit of small entity status in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>32</u>	-	<u>20</u>	=	<u>12</u>	x	\$9.00	=	<u>\$108.00</u>	
Independent claims	<u>1</u>	-	<u>3</u>	=		x	\$43.00	=	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Base Fee										<u>\$385.00</u>

TOTAL FILING FEE **\$493.00**

A check for the statutory fee, in the amount of \$493.00, is attached.



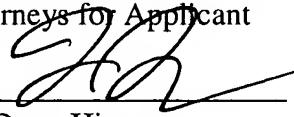
Commissioner for Patents

January 5, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Drew Hissong
Registration No. 44,765

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER